

Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Substance Abuse Community Treatment FY2004 Fact Sheet

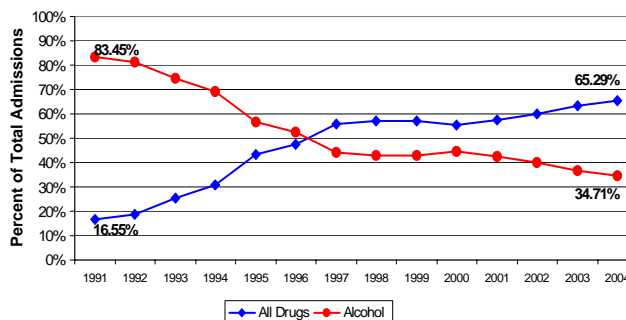
Treatment for substance abuse and dependence disorders has changed dramatically over the past several years. As the data reflect, the drugs of abuse have changed, as have the patient characteristics. These changes have resulted in more patients with serious treatment issues to deal with, in addition to family, legal, and vocational issues. In response to these changes the treatment field has developed evidence-based interventions to more effectively address the needs of the clients presenting for treatment. In Utah, about **5%** of adults and **8%** of youth are in need of substance abuse treatment. The public substance abuse treatment system admitted 21,161 individuals or 25% of the actual need in the state in 2004.

Admission Trends

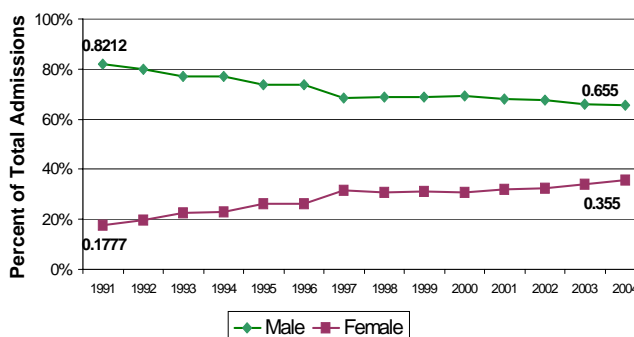
During the past 14 years, there has been a large increase in the number of women who have entered treatment programs compared to men. There were 12,383 men admitted into treatment in 1991 compared to 13,653 in 2004; that is 1,234 more admissions or a 10% increase. For women over the same time frame, there were 2,679 women admitted in 1991 and 7,508 women admitted in 2004; this is an increase of 4,829 admissions or a **180% increase**. With methamphetamine on the rise over the past few years, female admissions have increased. Currently, men make up about two-thirds of the public treatment system and women account for one-third of admissions

Thirteen years ago, 81% of Utah patients came into treatment for help with alcohol dependence; in fiscal year 2004, that percentage fell to 35%. On the other hand, the percentage of patients entering treatment for illicit drug abuse/dependence has risen from 17% in 1991 to 65% in 2004.

Patient Admissions for Alcohol vs.
Drug Dependence

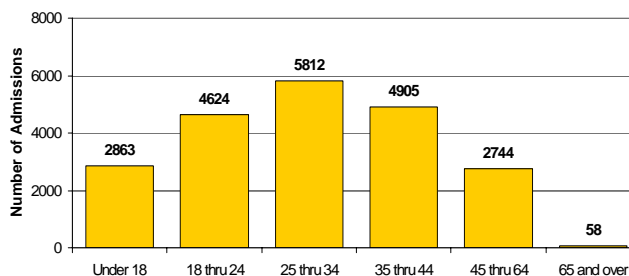


Trends in Admission by Gender

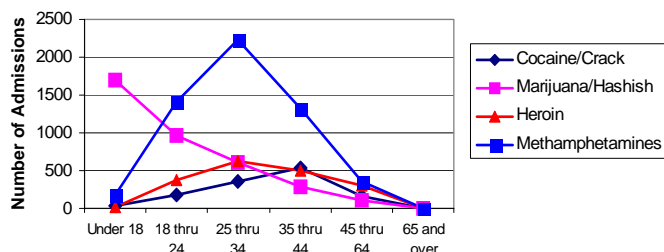


The following graph demonstrates the age at admission for patients entering treatment. Patients ages 25 to 34 comprised the largest age group in FY2004 (5,812). It is interesting to note, however, that the largest group of patients of the same age was the 17-year-old cohort that had 920 admissions. The average age of all patients admitted in FY2004 was 30 years

Age Grouping
Fiscal Year 2004



Top Four Illicit Drugs of Choice by Age Groups Fiscal Year 2004



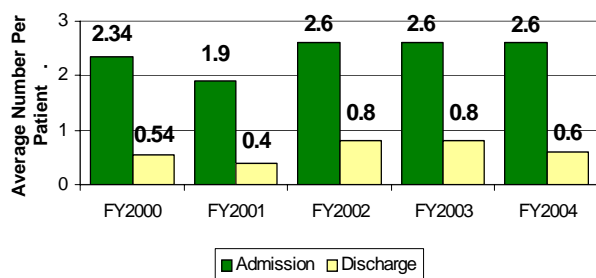
The table above demonstrates illicit drugs of choice at admission by age group. For adolescents under 18, most admissions are a result of marijuana use. Methamphetamine continues to be the drug of choice for all other groups except those 65 and over.

Treatment Outcomes:

The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health monitors patient outcomes during their treatment episodes. The following statistics show how treatment improves the lives of these patients and the community as a whole.

- 51% of patients were abstinent at discharge.
- 7.4% of patients had reduced use at discharge.
- The percentage of patients employed increased from 36.4% at admission to 45.1% at discharge.
- The average number of arrests (for those with arrest history) decreased from 2.6 to 0.6.

Decrease in Average Number of Arrests (Per Patient With an Arrest History)



Contact:

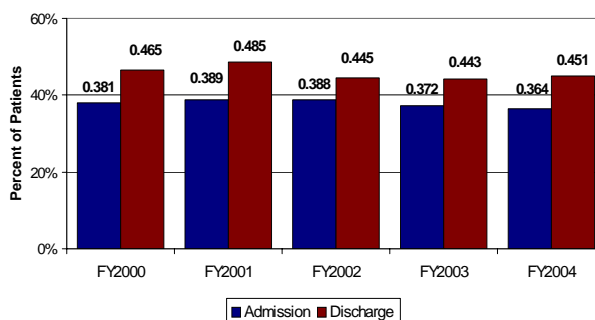
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Percentage of Patients Employed



Dollars and Sense

The California Drug and Alcohol Assessment, a two year follow-up study, showed that for each \$1 spent on alcohol or drug treatment, \$7.14 was saved in future costs, largely in relation to costs avoided because of reductions in crime (1994). It costs less to provide one year of treatment to patients with a substance abuse diagnosis than:

- incarceration for one year;
- providing foster care for dependent children;
- vocational rehabilitation services and lost wages;
- healthcare associated with drug or alcohol related illnesses; or
- court and legal costs, including the cost of law enforcement.

It makes sense to provide evidence-based treatment services to patients in order to improve the quality of life for the patient and their family.

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